

SENATE BILL 2811

By Finney

AN ACT to enact the Tennessee State Emergency Fund Act and to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 58, Chapter 2, Part 1, relative to disasters and emergencies.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. The act shall be known and may be cited as the "Tennessee State Emergency Fund Act".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 58, Chapter 2, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new section:

Section 58-2-133.

(a) There is created a special account in the state treasury to be known as the "Tennessee State Emergency Fund", hereinafter referred to as the "state emergency fund".

(b)

(1) Moneys in the state emergency fund shall be used exclusively to provide grants for emergency relief efforts including, but not limited to, equipment, supplies, food, labor costs and other emergency related expenditures.

(2) Such grants shall be available to qualified applicants in any area of the state where a state of emergency has been declared pursuant to the procedure established in §58-2-107 or declared by the President of the United States of America.

(3) The director of the Tennessee emergency management agency shall establish criteria for a Tennessee state emergency fund grant program. The

director shall award such grants from funds then available in the state emergency fund.

(4) Any grants awarded from the state emergency fund shall supplement, not supplant, existing federal resources for emergency relief.

(5) All grant recipients are subject to audit by the comptroller of the treasury as to the funds received pursuant to this section.

(c)

(1) In accordance with §58-2-109, the director may accept funds by way of gift to the state emergency fund. Any such gift shall be deposited into the state emergency fund to be distributed in accordance with the provisions of this act.

(2) Moneys in the state emergency fund may be invested by the state treasurer in accordance with the provisions of §9-4-603.

(3) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, interest accruing on investments and deposits of the state emergency fund shall be credited to such fund, shall not revert to the general fund, and shall be carried forward into the subsequent fiscal year.

(4) Any balance remaining unexpended at the end of a fiscal year in the state emergency fund shall not revert to the general fund but shall be carried forward into the subsequent fiscal year.

SECTION 3. The provisions of this act shall not be construed to be an appropriation of funds and no funds shall be obligated or expended pursuant to this act unless such funds are specifically appropriated by the general appropriations act.

SECTION 4. The Tennessee emergency management agency shall promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the provisions of this act.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.